

(c) Acquisition organizations shall designate a central point in each agency to evaluate and respond to user critiques and take corrective action on reasonable complaints and suggestions.

(d) At the time of the periodic review, the responsible preparing activity shall consider available user evaluations, the results of market research and analysis, and all reported deviations from the product description. Information, such as the following shall be examined in the review process:

(1) Whether the product description is still needed in its present form and scope or whether a more simplified one can be used;

(2) The existence of voluntary standards or other Government product descriptions that may better reflect current requirements;

(3) The need to convert Federal and agency specifications covering commercial or commercial-type products to CID's; and

(4) The currency and applicability of reference documents included in the product description.

Subpart 101-29.4—Mandatory Use of Federal Product Descriptions

§ 101-29.401 Federal product descriptions listed in the GSA Index of Federal Specifications, Standards and Commercial Item Descriptions.

(a) Federal product descriptions shall be used by all Federal agencies in the procurement of supplies and services covered by such descriptions, except as provided in § 101-29.402 and § 101-29.403.

(b) The order of preference in selecting Federal product descriptions for acquisition shall be:

(1) Any Federal product description adopting voluntary standards.

(2) Commercial item descriptions.

(3) Federal specifications and standards.

§ 101-29.402 Exceptions to mandatory use of Federal product descriptions.

(a) Federal product descriptions do not need to be used under any of the following circumstances:

(1) The purchase is required under a public exigency and a delay in obtaining agency requirements would be in-

volved in using the applicable description.

(2) The total amount of the purchase is less than \$10,000. (Multiple small purchases of the same item shall not be made for the purpose of avoiding the intent of this exception. Further, this exception in no way affects the requirements for the procurement of items available from GSA supply distribution facilities, Federal Supply Schedule contracts, GSA procurement programs, and certain procurement sources other than GSA that have been assigned supply responsibility for Federal agencies as provided in subparts 101-26.3, § 101-26.4, and § 101-26.5).

(3) The items are purchased in foreign markets for use of overseas activities of agencies.

(4) The products are adequately described in voluntary standards or in standards mandated by law.

(5) The acquisition involves a one-time procurement.

(6) A Federal product description is not currently available and is not expected to be available within a reasonable time of the scheduled acquisition action.

(7) The product is available only from a single source or is produced to a single manufacturer's design.

(8) The product is unique to a single system.

(9) The product (excluding military clothing) is acquired for authorized resale.

(b) If the purchase involves the following, Federal product descriptions do not need to be used except to the extent they are applicable, in whole or in part:

(1) Items required in construction of facilities for new processes or new installations of equipment;

(2) Items required for experiment, test, or research and development; or

(3) Spare parts, components, or material required for operation, repair, or maintenance of existing equipment.

§ 101-29.403 Federal product description exceptions and tailoring.

§ 101-29.403-1 Authorization of exceptions.

When the exceptions listed in § 101-29.402 do not apply and an applicable indexed product description is desired

for use in procurement but does not meet an agency's essential needs, exceptions to the product description to effect procurement may be authorized as follows:

(a) All exceptions to Federal telecommunications standards require prior approval by the Assistant Administrator for Information Resources Management, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405.

(b) Preparing activities may designate specific product descriptions that require approval of exceptions by the preparing activity before use.

(c) Exceptions to Federal product descriptions that do not require prior approval under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section may be authorized by the acquiring agency if:

(1) Justifications for exceptions are subject to review before authorization and that such justification can be fully substantiated if post audit is required;

(2) Notification of exception or recommendation for change to the Federal product description is sent promptly to the preparing activity and the General Services Administration (FCO), Washington, DC 20406.

(A statement of the exception with a justification and, where applicable, recommendation for revision or amendment to the description)

§ 101-29.403-2 Agency responsibility relative to exceptions to Federal product descriptions.

Each agency taking exceptions shall establish procedures whereby a designated official having substantial procurement responsibility shall be responsible for assuring that Federal product descriptions are used and provisions for exceptions are complied with.

§ 101-29.403-3 Tailoring of Federal product descriptions.

Product descriptions prepared to define and impose performance characteristics, engineering disciplines, and manufacturing practices such as reliability, system safety, quality assurance, maintainability, configuration management, and the like shall be tailored in accordance with their specific application in acquisitions.

Subpart 101-29.5—Use of and Optional Use of Federal Product Descriptions and Agency Product Descriptions

§ 101-29.501 Optional use of interim Federal specifications.

Interim Federal specifications are for optional use. All agencies are urged to make maximum use of them and to submit suggested changes to the preparing activity for consideration in further development of the specifications for promulgation as Federal specifications or commercial item descriptions. Interim revisions or interim amendments to Federal specifications are for optional use as valid exceptions to the Federal specifications so revised or amended and must, therefore, be specifically identified by symbol and date in the invitation for bids or request for proposal.

§ 101-29.502 Use of Federal specifications and interim Federal specifications in Federal construction contracts.

When material, equipment, or services covered by an available Federal specification or interim Federal specification are specified in connection with Federal construction, the Federal specification or interim Federal specification shall be made part of the specification for the construction contract, subject to provisions in §§ 101-29.402, 101-29.403, and 101-29.501.

§ 101-29.503 Agency product descriptions.

When a Federal product description is not available, existing agency product descriptions should be used by all agencies consistent with each agency's procedures for establishing priority for use of such descriptions.

PART 101-30—FEDERAL CATALOG SYSTEM

Sec.

101-30.000 Scope of part.

101-30.001 Applicability.

Subpart 101-30.1—General

101-30.100 Scope of subpart.

101-30.101 Definitions.

101-30.101-1 Civil agency item.